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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TFIZ01: DART NORTHERN IRAQ UPDATE

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SUMMARY  
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1. The situation in the Kurdish-controlled region of northern Iraq remains calm. The security level above the former "green line" has been declared permissive. CMOC has declared Kirkuk to be permissive and Mosul to be semi-permissive during daylight hours. Confusion as to which political body has the lead coordination role in Kirkuk and Mosul remains an issue. A UNOHCI representative explained that Mosul and Kirkuk would still be treated separately from northern Iraq activities under U.N. Security Resolution (UNSCR) 986. End Summary.

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MINE ACTION MEETING  
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2. The DART Field Team North attended a mine action meeting on 30 April. Hosted by the Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC), the meeting was also attended by the U.N. Office for Project Services (UNOPS), Mine Action Group, Norwegian Peoples Aid, the Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation, and several local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in mine clearing and mine awareness programs.

3. The agenda included an overview of the proposed mine action center structure for all of Iraq, data reporting and sharing, standardization issues (prioritization criteria, mapping, and marking), the need for a single coordinating authority in northern Iraq, survey requirements, operating areas, and support requirements.

4. CMOC is the coordination point for mine action in Arbil. CMOC informed those present that the program will be inclusive and national, and that there are people in Baghdad working to build a national program and a central repository for data and information sharing. While each agency involved in mine action seemed to have its own operating procedures, all agreed that there is a need to standardize and coordinate all mine-action activities. During the meeting, CMOC announced that any agency involved in mine or unexploded ordnance (UXO) demolition must provide 24-hour notice before undertaking such activities.

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UNHCR FOOD DISTRIBUTION  
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5. The DART visited a U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) food distribution point for 2,000 Iranian refugees and asylum seekers in Arbil on 2 May. Upon request from UNHCR, Coalition forces provided 42,000 Humanitarian Daily Rations, enough to feed the refugees and asylum seekers for 21 days. UNHCR expects refugees to consume more than one per day and estimates the distributed food to last approximately 14 days. UNHCR rationalized its request to the Coalitionary by explaining that the WFP public distribution system (PDS) only provided support to the refugees for 20 days a month. Due to the war, refugees were not able to work and thus had no income for supplemental food. This food will supplement WFP distributions for the next two months.

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MINISTRY OF RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (MORAD)  
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6. The DART also met with the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) MORAD Minister, Deputy Minister, and heads of Planning, Rural Development, and Reconstruction and Development Offices on 1 May. Established in 1993, MORAD is charged with reconstructing those villages destroyed by the former Iraqi regime in the 1980s and early 1990s. MORAD's approach is an integrated one, focusing

on shelter, education, health services, electricity, water and sanitation, and income generation. MORAD coordinates with the relevant ministries in the KRG.

17. The Minister estimated that the former regime destroyed 4,500 of the 5,000 villages in the north. To date, the Ministry has reconstructed over 3,000 of these villages, and those remaining are in border areas (bordering Iran and Turkey) or are mined and have not been considered safe for reconstruction. A major focus for the Ministry is to promote rural development and sustainable reintegration for those families who wish to return to their home in those villages. The Minister also noted that often these families could earn greater income in their home villages than in the cities from which they are returning.

18. A priority of the Ministry has been to rebuild shelter and provide services to 313 families who have returned to 37 villages in the "newly liberated areas" of Arbil Governorate. While much of the funding for previous reconstruction came from the U.N. under UNSCR 986, the Ministry has none of the necessary funds or materials to undertake this new project. The Ministry is planning to conduct a pledge session with various NGOs and U.N. agencies to see who may be able to provide financial or material resources to rebuild these villages. The total estimated budget is approximately USD 2.4 million.

(Comment: The Ministry seems dedicated to its mandate and is very organized. They shared the same skepticism other ministries have articulated about the U.N.; however, the Minister appears somewhat sympathetic to the difficult position of the U.N. in pre-war Iraq. The Minister is also concerned about continuation of reconstruction projects in a post-986 world. In a previous meeting, UNOPS mentioned that the both KDP and PUK ministries allocated UN-HABITAT houses in urban settings meant for internally displaced persons (IDPs) to KDP civil servants. This may be a reason behind the Ministry's interest in returning IDPs to their original villages. Also, while the Minister stressed that all these returns were voluntary, UNOPS-IDP suggested this might not always be the case. End comment.)

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AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION MINISTER  
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19. The DART met in Arbil on 1 May with Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Directors General from Duhok and Arbil governorates. Agriculture officials from As Sulaymaniyah also attended the meeting. Ministry officials noted that one of their priorities was to develop a wheat market for last year's crop and another was to develop a market for their upcoming harvest in June. They provided wheat harvest estimates of around 600,000 metric tons (MT) in Arbil and Duhok, and 250,000 MT in As Sulaymaniyah. The officials also provided details on silo, warehouse, and milling capacities in the three governorates. A big question has been how to purchase large quantities of wheat from many small farmers. Officials noted that this could be accomplished by working through the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. The Ministry could disseminate information to farmers on quantities needed, grade and purchase amounts from farmer or groups of farmers, and store the wheat in silos and warehouses. There are no local farmers' cooperatives in Iraq.

110. The DART will discuss further with WFP the possibility of assessing the potential harvest (in conjunction with FAO) and purchasing a portion of this to meet needs in other areas of the country. Discussion with officials also touched on a number of additional food security and water issues, including secondary crops, fisheries, and small and large livestock health needs. Ministry officials agreed to provide more detailed information to the DART.

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IO/NGO COORDINATION MEETING  
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111. On 30 April, The DART attended the weekly IO/NGO coordination meeting hosted by the Ministry of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation (MOHAC). The meeting was well attended with over 50 participants representing various ministries of the Kurdish Regional Government, the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA), CMOC, U.N., and international and local NGOs.

112. The meeting opened with news of the return of U.N. international staff. A representative of U.N. Office for the Humanitarian Coordination for Iraq (UNOCHI) explained that on 23 April, six World Food Program (WFP) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) staff arrived. On 24 April, 29 more staff from UNOCHI, UNICEF, U.N. Development Program, and UNOPS arrived in northern Iraq. The MOHAC Minister noted that the future of UNSCR 986 and the role of the U.N. in post-war Iraq still remains unclear. The UNOCHI representative explained that the post-war period would be marked with greater cooperation with NGOs. (Note: Prior to the war, the U.N. could not work with NGOs, as most were considered illegal by the former regime. End Note.) The UNOCHI representative could not confirm that the U.N. would have an official relationship with NGOs, although he hoped

to have more insight on the issue next week.

113. UNOHCI also explained that under the terms of UNSCR 986, Mosul and Kirkuk would continue to be funded out of the portion dedicated to the former Government of Iraq-controlled territory. When asked whether PUK or KDP governorates were responsible for these two areas, the MOHAC Minister commented, "I am not in a position to give you a clear answer." (Note: PUK was not represented at this meeting. End note.)

114. CMOC provided a security brief, stating that during daylight hours, Kirkuk is permissible and Mosul is semi-permissive. They also mentioned that there are now CMOCs in Kirkuk and Mosul, and that they continue to produce assessments for NGO use.

115. NGOs gave brief summaries of their work during the last week. Of note, Medair stated that there was great need for assistance to returning IDPs, noting that there are 10,000 people living in mosques and barracks in Mosul that are in need of emergency aid, including food and clothing. (Comment: As was obvious in this and previous meetings, many NGOs are working in similar sectors in the same geographical area, e.g., health in Makmour, with little or no coordination. Even as NGOs share information about assessments and areas in which they are working, no organization has emerged that can help coordinate these NGOs to prevent duplication of efforts or gaps in the provision of services. End Comment.)

JONES